

**Bindura University
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**BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION
FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS SCIENCE**

**Developing a Framework to Guide the Introduction of Wheelchair
Cricket in Zimbabwe**

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**A DISSERTATION PROPOSAL SUBMITTED IN FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE POSTGRADUATE MASTERS IN SPORTS
SCIENCE DEGREE**

DECEMBER 2023

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation to my parents, brother, devoted wife and children, who served as constant sources of inspiration for me through their financial support, encouragement, and prayers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would especially like to thank my brother, wife, and children for their unwavering guidance and assistance during the research. They continued to give me encouragement whenever I felt I could not make further steps.

The completion of this research would not have been possible without the support from the Bindura University of Science Education staff from the faculty of sport science. Particular gratitude goes to Dr. Bhekuzulu Khumalo who was my supervisor for the guidance he gave me for the completion of this research. Without their support, dedication and assistance I would not have managed to overcome challenges I experienced and made me view the impossible to be possible.

A vote of thanks also goes to the people, sports managers, athletes with disability and coaches who took part in this investigation for the precious time they spared to enable me to do the data collection.

Lastly, I give thanks to everyone who made this research a success.

ABSTRACT

The study developed a framework for the introduction of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe. The mixed method approach was used and the research design was a survey. The target population included the Zimbabwe Cricket game development manager, the Zimbabwe Cricket provincial franchise general managers, the Zimbabwe Cricket Coaches, and the Zimbabwe Paralympic Committee administrators. For the survey, the purposive sampling technique was used for the qualitative strand whilst the probability sampling method was used for the quantitative strand. This research focused on those with a physical disability (those with spinal cord injuries, limb and leg losses were a result of an accident or as a result of a disease like polio and participating part in sport) who constituted 14 (70%), hearing impairment (those without the ability to hear completely or partially) 4 (20%) and vision impairment (those who are completely blind and also partially) 2(10%). Of the respondents who participated under athletes 11 (55%) were male and 9 (45%) were female, under coaches 5(83.3%) were male and 1 (16.7%) female, and administrators 4(80%) were male and 1 (20%) female. For data processing and interpretation for quantitative analysis, the IBM Statistical Package for Social Sciences 27(SPSS) was utilized for data collected by questionnaires, and for qualitative analysis of data, NVIVO 14 was used. The key findings were that there are several challenges that are not supporting the launch of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe. Playing wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe was found to be hard since modified facilities are hindered by the lack of modified entrances to facilities and the lack of modified playing areas, pitches, and ablution facilities. Accessibility for athletes with disability to facilities proves to be a major challenge. Also, the lack of adapted sports equipment like cricket balls and bats. For wheelchair cricket to be launched there is a need for sourcing of adapted sports equipment. There is a need to put some money into modifying practice and match facilities so that athletes with a disability have easy access. In the drafting of policies, the Zimbabwe Paralympic Committee, Government ministries and also athletes with disability should be roped in. There is need to come up with plans and policies to encourage the launch of a framework for different sporting disciplines to accommodate those people with disability in Zimbabwe.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

F	Female
M	Male
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
IPC	International Paralympic Committee
ZC	Zimbabwe Cricket
ZPC	Zimbabwe Paralympic Committee

CHAPTER 1: PROBLEM AND ITS SETTINGS

1.1 Introduction

Cricket is a game which is too intrinsic to a certain culture, and in defiance of the efforts by the International Cricket Council to continue growing cricket globally, it continues to be a limited sport due to the reliance on a few countries to develop and expand. The sport of cricket is growing very much in prominence, when we notice the increase in participation and viewership across a large number of countries in the last few decades. An area which is mostly raised or touched on is the area which needs to be focused on in the respect to sport growth is its inclusivity. In other words, this is how the sport of cricket can be more open and accessible to diverse categories of people regardless of age, gender, race or physical condition. In the past years cricket has grown considerably to be an inclusive sport. An example is when cricket started in several nations which include Australia and England, it was an exclusively men's sport. To date, the sport now includes variety. Cricket now includes a more diverse section of the society which includes women, children and individuals with physical and mental disabilities. Disability unit (2022) highlights that the potential to participate in cricket as a sport for individuals with disabilities is one of the game's best kept secrets. According to the game's most recent participation statistics, over 70 000 disabled players use its many formats, and both the number and the chances for involvement are continually rising (Disability unit ,2022). By its very essence, cricket is an inclusive sport. Many people participate in, watch, and have a lifelong interest for this activity. It is of importance to note that different programs have been designed to encourage inclusivity in sport, centered on meeting the requirements of those who are disabled. It is of importance to note that despite these efforts which have been set up to try and make the sport of cricket an

inclusive sport, it is still very hard to come up with a conclusion that chances for people with disabilities to take part in cricket and a lot of various sporting activities are not at all limited. Due to this there is a great need to focus on finding several ways so as to make cricket an inclusive sport. This will go a long way in giving people a balanced exposure to the resources and opportunities to take part in the sport of cricket. This will help people of the society to become proud players of the sport at the different levels of exposure, despite their physical restrictions or other biases by developing a framework to guide the introduction of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe.

1.2 Background of the study

In the late 19th century, cricket was brought into the country of Rhodesia by its first white settlers. These white settlers were also known as “pioneers”. During this error the game of cricket was considered to highlight a legacy of colonialism and empire.

A group of men with an Indian origin in Salisbury, Rhodesia formed a cricket club. According to Patel (2021) the young Merchants Cricket Club was founded in 1934 by nine individuals who were immigrants in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia. This club which the men formed was the first Indian club in the country of Rhodesia. The men further managed to turn their club into an organization which later managed to keep its existence up to the 21st century. After forming their club, they named it Oriental Cricket Club and they had a belief that the formation of this club would result in them being favored by the white settlers and this would result in them playing the elite sport of cricket. They saw the game of empire as a way to get access to the colonial city’s elite sports scene. (Patel ,2021)

As time went on discrimination by the white settler government continued to those who were not of European origin. Patel (2021) highlights that prejudice against non-European communities grew as the white settler government solidified Rhodesia's independence as an independent colony.

When Rhodesia became Zimbabwe, the Indians who were now known as the Sunrise management group started enlisting players from Africa into their group in the hopes that this would enable them to participate in the post-colonial sporting culture and at the same time facilitate Zimbabwe to play in the test playing nations under the International Cricket Council.

The first black cricket player was selected into the Zimbabwe national cricket team in 1995. Henry Olonga's selection into the national team shocked Zimbabwe Cricket, with some of the leadership of the Zimbabwe Cricket Union expressing the need for additional black gamers to be selected into the team. On the other hand, the white members continued insisting on maintaining white players in the national team. This period resulted in a lot of white players leaving. After this misunderstanding the implications were also felt in the local league, which was once dominated by cricket teams made up of white players. Now, only a few clubs remain in the league and participate in social tournaments.

Generally, it can be observed that the issue of inclusivity in cricket comes from a long time ago. This inclusion did not only end between Africans, Indians and the white community. Today cricket is still regarded as an elite sport. This is so because of the expensive equipment and facilities used to be able to play the sport of cricket.

It goes even to those people living with disability, they are not fully exposed to the sport of cricket in Zimbabwe. Due to this, the need to focus on finding more ways which can make cricket a more inclusive sport is raised. In addition, this will help by availing the people of Zimbabwe with equal access to resources and opportunities to become proud players of the so-called elite sport at every level, irrespective of their status, physical size and physical ability. To date it can be observed that more emphasis is put on cricket for the able bodied whilst very little is being done for the people with disability who do not have facilities and equipment which are specifically made for them. Zimbabwe captain Hamilton Masakadza handed new bats, helmets and balls to the centre before action got underway on the makeshift field that the institutions recently established cricket team for the disabled is using for practice (3-mob.com ,2018). Furthermore, it can also be noted that these people with disability require a set of specific rules and special coaching which is formulated specifically for their version of the game.

1.3 Statement of the problem

To develop a framework which will be used to direct the introduction of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe. The researcher was pushed to carry out this research due to the nonexistence of modified playing area, equipment, ablution facilities and rules so as to include people with disability. In addition, the inexistence of specialized coaching for people who are physically challenged, for example in the case of the deaf the coach needs to put forward drills in the form of a written format on the board. Also, people who are physically challenged also have the same expectations with those athletes who are able bodied but they are not being given the chance to do so. Lack of an environment which promotes those athletes with disability to work jointly or together with those who are able bodied.

1.4 Significance of the study

Creating a structure to direct the introduction of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe will at first highlight how disability cricket is being carried out currently in Zimbabwe whilst it will further assist in how disability sports, in general, are approached in the country. Also, this framework should have the potential of not only transforming wheelchair cricket but will also help in the general approach in the conduct of disability sports in Zimbabwe. The framework will help by showing anomalies in disability sport and s it will furthermore recommend a framework that Zimbabwe may undertake whilst introducing the format of disability cricket which is wheelchair cricket in the country. In addition, it will be an advancement towards coming up with an impartial and also diverse sporting landscapes which carters for the different individual abilities within the nation.

1.5 Research Questions

Primary Research Question

To develop a framework which will be used for the introduction of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe.

1.5.1 Subsidiary Research Questions

1.5.2) What is the present state of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe?

1.5.3) What factors are working against the introduction of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe?

1.5.4) Which strategic measures can be put in place to guide the introduction of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe?

1.6 Research objectives

1.6.1) To identify the framework used by Zimbabwe Cricket for wheelchair cricket.

1.6.2) To find out what Zimbabwe Cricket is doing to help promote wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe.

1.6.3) To develop a framework to be used for the introduction of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe.

1.6.4) To use the findings to make recommendations on the improvement of wheelchair cricket and disability sport in Zimbabwe.

1.7 Delimitations of the study

The research used data from one manager heading the Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) game development department and the provincial franchise general managers from the four Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) provincial franchisees in the country. Also, the population included in the study was the Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) coaches, athletes with disability who participate in the different Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) provincial franchises development programs and the Zimbabwe Paralympic Committee (ZPC) administrators.

1.8 Study outline

Chapter one

Is the chapter that summarizes the main goal of the investigation. In this chapter, the overall background of the study issue is summarized, while touching on the problems that led to the research being conducted. In addition, this chapter presents the research aims and questions.

Chapter two

Examines the existing literature that is relevant to the topic being researched. The sources of the literature are the different articles found in books, journals, newspapers, magazines, internet articles and other different sources of information which is of importance to the research topic. Under this chapter the researcher will try to showcase the approach which is being implemented whilst executing wheel chair cricket in Zimbabwe.

Chapter Three

This chapter will explain how the research was done. Under this chapter the research purpose, philosophy, approach, design, time horizons, population sampling procedures, data collection and ethical considerations which are going to be used are put forward so as to highlight the approach which was used so as to come up with the hypothesis. Also, in the same chapter the researcher puts forward the supporting statements which justify why each approach was used by the researcher.

Chapter Four

The research findings are presented in this chapter.

Chapter Five

The research findings are compiled under this chapter. Emphasizing the significance of the findings, a comparison of the results with previously proposed ideas is presented.

Chapter Six

After the research is finished, the conclusion and suggestions are presented under this chapter. This chapter will discuss additional ideas and problems that have come up during the study process and after. Suggestions for potential areas for additional research in this field.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter examines the body of research on the subject that has already been published and authored by different scholars. This will be based on different sources from which the information is obtained, sources which include the internet, newspaper articles, books, reports and journals. Also, this chapter will also include various theories which are related to the research topic.

2.2 Conceptualization

2.2.1 Review of literature

Snyder (2019) suggests that a literature review is, in general, a methodological process of gathering and summarizing prior information. Denney and Tewskbury (2013) described literature review as an extensive summary of previous research on a particular subject that informs the reader about what is known and what is unknown, so establishing the necessity or justification for additional research.

2.2.2 Disability Cricket Forms

The need for inclusivity influences sports to be modified. Though the primary emphasis of the design is on the introductory, or more approachable version of sport, this modification can take many different forms. When sports are modified, a greater focus is placed on kids, adults, individuals with disabilities, and those seeking higher social achievement. This promotes less competitive opportunities. There is so much that needs to be done so as to realize inclusivity in sport (Zvapano, 2022).

Modified sports help in the development of general movement skills and basic sport techniques. This encourages the idea of modifying the equipment used in the actual sport. Zvapano (2022) points out that, modifications on equipment and materials are quite critical in ensuring that athletes with disabilities take part in sport. Furthermore, this instills the coming up with new rules and playing surfaces which enables the matching of the capabilities which include age, physical size, physical ability, motor skill proficiency of the people taking part in the sport. Zvapano (2022) further suggests that athletes with disabilities should enjoy the right to participate in the sport of their choice and be assisted to do so.

The various governing bodies of various sports codes will be able to access a single sport that may be performed in various formats to accommodate a variety of requirements and skill levels thanks to the modification of sport. In addition, modified sports bring with them other benefits which include improved motor skills development. In this form the element of competition is not strongly put forward, which means less emphasis on competitions. These are more of socially relevant activities which can be also regarded as fun activities that are designed to improve motor skills with also the encouragement of participation in the respective sport. This is common when modifying sport to make it accessible to those people with disability.

For those who are physically disabled but who are really interested in taking part in cricket, have a variety of formats which they can take part in. Physical disability, learning disability, visually impaired and deaf make up the four impairment groups. These groups are a template for the different levels of disability cricket. These groups are made up to try and cater for the various people who have different disability levels. This will make it possible for those with a variety of

limitations to participate in cricket matches. Disability cricket focus is not mainly to help people who are disabled to reach their potential but also to create ways for the disabled community to fulfil enjoyment of a social activity and at the same time having fun.

Another format of disabled cricket is table cricket. This format is played on a table tennis sized table. Table cricket targets children who are between the ages five and eleven but can also be played by those who are over the age of eleven and adults too. A team of table cricket is made up of six players. The innings is only limited to two overs each and the runs are scored or getting out is based upon where the ball is hit into the areas which are around the tables surface, where the sliding fielders lie in wait. In addition, table cricket was made for the young people who suffer from physical or learning disabilities that do not allow them to take part in the other forms of cricket. A modified form of cricket called table cricket is played on a table tennis surface with various scoring areas all round it and a ramp used by the bowler to deliver the ball. (Disability unit,2022)

Adaptive Kwik cricket is a format of cricket which is designed to suit the people who want to take part in the game. This format can be played in pairs, or even adjust the form of cricket which accommodates the deaf or visually impaired people who will be using a plastic ball and balls made up of plastic to reduce the risk of injuries to the players.

Wheelchair cricket and walking cricket are designed for those people with different physical abilities who also have severe of disabilities. Walking cricket is almost similar to walking football. This format of walking cricket is more familiar to the old age who are over fifty years. Another format which is known as clock cricket is

on the cards, it is still being designed. Clock cricket is for old people who are not mobile and is more suitable for care homes. The players will sit down in a circle, whilst using a special type of bat to hit the ball they use sponge balls. They then face eight balls so as to determine the winner.

2.2.3 The Amendments of the cricket Rules

- i. The walking aids or wheelchair are an integral aspect of the player. These form part of the player as it will be recognized as an extension of the player.
- ii) A wheelchair will be declared out if the ball is struck into the air and then caught after rebounding off of it, unless:
 - a) The wheelchair was hit or came into contact with the ball at a low enough position that the umpire decided it had touched the ground.
 - b) The wheelchair did not instantly contain the ball in one or more visible hands prior to it landing on the ground, or the umpire declared the ball to be dead.
 - c) If the ball becomes stuck in the wheelchair or becomes lodged on the hip or lap without assistance, it is considered dead. It means that ball will not count.
- iii) As long as the wheelchair remains in place after the player exits it, a wheelchair used by a batter or bowler who is only able to stand for brief periods of time will be seen as an integral part of the player. Take note The umpire will declare a game to be dead ball if they believe or observe that an unjust circumstance occurred.
- iv) When a player uses a wheelchair on or close to the boundary line, the wheelchair is regarded as the player's foot. It is said to be an extension of the human body.
- v) The person batting will be awarded five runs if a ball is struck and rebounds off an empty wheelchair while it is in play, unless the fielder fell out of the wheelchair or was removed from it voluntarily, such as while trying to field the ball or make a catch.
- vi) Players with high levels of impairment would only need to touch the stumps with the ball or the hand

holding the ball in order to be awarded the wicket when attempting to run someone out if the bails had already been removed. Whether or not the handicap made it difficult to remove a stump is up to the umpire's discretion.

vii) The Leg Before Wicket law would be applicable if the ball struck the wheelchair. If the ball hits the wheelchair for the batsman whilst in front of the wickets and if missed it would hit the wickets if the obstacle is removed

viii) If the ball bounces off the wheelchair and strikes the stumps, it is deemed out unless the umpire determines that the ball was deemed so wide that an unfair scenario occurred; in that case, it is termed a no ball.

ix) The umpire should always call balls that go down the leg side (one day regulations should always apply). These will then be recorded as wide balls and recorded as extra runs to the batting team.

x) If a ball strikes the wheelchair during a Leg Before Wicket or Leg Byes, it is seen to be a part of the player. Balls thrown down the leg side will be considered wide even if they come into contact with a wheelchair.

xi) A ball that strikes the wheelchair and, in the umpire's opinion, creates an unfair circumstance is considered dead. The umpire will use his or her discretion to consider the ball dead if the umpire feels the ball, was an unfair delivery.

xii) A wheelchair that has been abandoned would result in five penalty runs being awarded to Five penalty runs are awarded to the striker in the event that the ball is struck and strikes an abandoned wheelchair.

xiii) Players with disabilities that would make it impossible for them to bowl over their arms may bowl under arm (throwing action should be discouraged). Throwing action will encourage unfair practice whilst playing.

xiv) When a bowler bowls under arm and rolls the ball down the ground or bounces it more than three times, it is deemed a dead ball. That ball would not count and the bowler is supposed to retake it.

xv) High-disability players will bowl from

marks that are closer to the hitter. This will enable them to give a fair delivery.

2.2.4 Accessibility of Players at Venue

People with disability will need easy access to the cricket clubs, ablution facilities, bars including the playing area. In the event that the facilities do are not friendly to disabled people, temporary wooden ramps can be used up to a time the facilities are sorted out to cater for people with disability. Recommendations for increased door widths on entrances, bar heights, and safety rails. A common worry is that even while a restroom door may be sufficiently large, the hallway leading to it might not have enough room or be too small for a wheelchair to turn into. Other places that frequently cause problems and are typically ignored are the entrance to the playing field, the changing rooms, the pavilion, the restrooms, the showers, the spectator area, the umpire's rooms, the score box, and the phone access. Wet floors, obstacles, glass objects and discarded equipment are also dangers which can cause a problem for the disabled community. Falola and Hamel (2021) also point out that architectural barriers such as inaccessibility of sports facilities which are prevalent in developing countries. Furthermore, they point out the lack of sport specific equipment.

2.2.5 General Information on Equipment

When playing wheelchair cricket there is need to use balls which are safe to the disabled people. For training sessions, balls other than regular cricket balls can be used, such as wind balls, tennis balls, Easton Incredible Balls (safety cricket balls), and soft polyurethane balls. Hard cricket balls are generally not advised for wheelchair cricket. Safety is one area of major concern when people who are physically challenged are playing sport. On the issue of batting equipment, the

batsman uses plastic bats and traditional lightweight cricket bats. The 16metres field for players with severe disabilities has additional markers to reduce the distance wheelchair players must run. Bowlers who are unable to bowl a long distance due to weak arms should use the designated creases. On the other hand, the players with medium levels of disability use a pitch which is 20metres.

2.2.6 Umpires Signals

Umpires use signals which are the same for able bodied people. Dead ball is signaled by the umpire by crossing off the wrists below the knee level. No ball is signaled by raising and then extending the arm at shoulder height. When batsman is out the umpire raises the finger and points upwards. In the case of a wide ball the umpire observes if the batsman would have reached the ball after playing a normal cricket shot. For a bye the umpire raises one hand up with the palm open and in the case of a leg bye the umpire raises the leg pats it and then follows what they have done on the bye whilst highlighting the runs scored. In the case of cancelling a call the umpire touches both shoulders with opposite hands. This is done after making a wrong decision and the umpire wishes to reverse the decision One quick signal is to raise one arm and tap the right shoulder with the bent arm. The right shoulder. When turning between runs, a batsman who fails to make his ground is guilty of one short. When a batsman is running two or more but fails to hold his ground and puts his bat in short at a turn, this would be called. The umpire indicates five penalty runs to the batting side by repeatedly tapping one shoulder with the other hand, and five penalty runs to the fielding side by laying a hand on the opposing shoulder. The boundary four signal is an arm wave from side to side, though umpires rotate on this and have their own methods. When a batsman hit six runs the umpire shows by raising both hands and pointing in the air. Before signaling start of a match the umpire should first get a go ahead from the scorer.

2.3 Conclusion

This chapter touched on the different disability cricket, accessibility of players at venue and general information on equipment. In this chapter the researcher also discussed on formats, amendment of cricket rules to suit the disabled people. The main focus in these areas discussed was to try and find out how wheelchair cricket is played in other countries. All these areas discussed contribute very much in the playing of wheelchair cricket. The discussion justified the need for more research on the development of a framework to introduce wheelchair cricket.

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter covers population sampling, data gathering tools and research design. Population sampling was taken from the four provincial cricket franchises of Zimbabwe cricket. Purposive sampling method was used to sample the Zimbabwe cricket provincial managers whilst probability sampling was used for the quantitative strand to sample coaches and the disabled athletes. Questionnaires and interviews were used to gather information.

3.2 Research Purpose

The purpose of the research is to intervene by developing a framework to guide the launch of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe. According to Fraser and Galinsky (2013) define intervention research as the methodical examination of deliberate change tactics. It is distinguished by the way interventions are developed and designed. The researcher developed interventions in the improvement of accessibility to disabled players and spectators to match venues and ablution facilities. In addition, the researcher intends that the framework will intervene in the modification of equipment, playing field including the boundary. Lastly the framework can be used in the introduction of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe, and this will also help in the general conduct or approach to disability sport so as to cater for the different individual abilities in Zimbabwe.

3.3 Research Philosophy

In this research the researcher used the positivism paradigm. This paradigm linked with quantitative method, whilst the qualitative approach was to the constructivism

paradigm. At the end the mixed methods approach was used in order to accomodate the positivism and constructivism paradigms.

3.4 Approach to Theory Development

The deductive approach to theory development was used by the researcher for this research.

3.5 Time Horizons

In this study, the time horizon for this research was a cross sectional study. This is because qualitative and quantitative collection was conducted at particular times and this research was not done over a long-time frame, this is a result of the fact that this framework was designed in a short space of time. Cross sectional studies are categorized as an observational study design type. In cross sectional study, the researcher tracks the study participants exposures and outcomes throughout time (Setia,2016).

3.6 Primary Research Study

Because the mixed method approach gives respondents a voice and the research's conclusions are based on the respondent's experiences, it was chosen for this study. This approach made it possible to collect extensive, thorough data. Experts participating in the acquisition of qualitative data were interviewed, while experts involved in the quantitative approach were surveyed. For qualitative data administrators from Zimbabwe Cricket who are custodians of the game were interviewed including administrators of the Paralympic committee so as to be able to get proper update since they both administer sport. For quantitative data coaches and athletes were given questionnaires so as to get the view of those taking part in sport.

3.7 Population and Sampling

3.7.1 Population

In this research the population was mainly from Zimbabwe Cricket since it is the custodian of cricket in Zimbabwe. The athletes chosen were those disabled athletes who are active in the game of cricket under the Zimbabwe Cricket programs and leagues. The research population came from the Zimbabwe cricket national structures and the four provincial franchises of cricket in Zimbabwe since they are the ones responsible for running all cricket programs in the country on behalf of Zimbabwe Cricket. Six (6) Zimbabwe cricket coaches, four (4) Zimbabwe cricket provincial franchisee general managers, one (1) Zimbabwe cricket game development manager and twenty (20) athletes with disability will make up the research population of the study. Three (3) administrators from the Zimbabwe Paralympic Committee were interviewed by the researcher. Since it was not possible to obtain all Zimbabwe Cricket Coaches, Managers and Administrators of the Zimbabwe Paralympic Committee, these research population statistics were used. This population gave a resemblance of the whole cricket population since responses were from the four cricket provinces of Zimbabwe.

3.7.2 Sampling

In this research the sample was taken from four provincial franchisees of Zimbabwe Cricket. For the qualitative strand the researcher used purposive sampling technique. The purposive sampling method was used to sample the Zimbabwe cricket provincial general managers, the game development manager and the Zimbabwe Paralympic Committee administrators. The researcher used Purposive sampling method because of its economical time and because of its cost effectiveness. On the other hand, the researcher used probability sampling methods

for the quantitative strand. The probability sampling technique was used to sample the provincial coaches and the disabled athletes. Those respondents who were sampled were from the following Zimbabwe Cricket franchises: Tuskers, Midwest, Mountaineers, Eagles, Zimbabwe cricket game development and Zimbabwe Paralympic Committee. The researcher chose the respondents from Tuskers, Midwest, Mountaineers, Eagles, Zimbabwe cricket game development and Zimbabwe Paralympic Committee since all the cricket in Zimbabwe is being run by Zimbabwe Cricket as the mother body and then the four franchisees as the ones directly involved in the provincial cricket implementation whilst reporting or working under Zimbabwe Cricket. In addition, the Zimbabwe Paralympic Committee is the one which is also responsible for adapted sports in Zimbabwe.

3.8 Data Collection Instruments

Data for this study were gathered through interviews and questionnaires. Every decision made during the data collection process was subjective.

As defined ‘A questionnaire is simply a list of mimeographed or printed questions that is completed by or for a respondent to give his opinion (Roopa and Rani, 2012.). Adhabi and Anozie (2017) stated an interview as attempts to understand the world from the subject’s point of view to unfold the meaning of people’s experiences, to uncover their lived world before scientific explanations.

3.9 Pilot Study

The pilot study took place at Zimbabwe Cricket Provincial Franchise, Midwest. The researcher distributed Questionnaires to coaches and selected athletes. The researcher conducted interviews which were semi structured to the provincial general manager. Some of the reasons why a pilot study is done is to try and

highlight an advance warning about where the main research project might have challenges, where research protocols may not be followed, or whether proposed methods or research instruments are not suitable or might be too advanced. Inn (2017) highlights that a pilot study is performed either as an external pilot study independent of the main study or as an internal pilot study included in the research design of the main research.

3.10 Main Study

The research was conducted in the four franchise provinces of Zimbabwe Cricket including the Zimbabwe Paralympic Committee. For this research questionnaires and semi structured interviews were the data collection instruments which were used. A letter was written to the Human Resources Officers to seek permission to conduct research in the different Zimbabwe Cricket franchisees and the Zimbabwe Paralympic Committee. Questionnaires were distributed to the different coaches and athletes. Interviews were done through the phone media with the provincial general managers and administrators.

3.11 Data Analysis and Presentation

For this research data collected was analyzed qualitatively through the use of NVIVO 14 software and quantitatively through the IBM Statistical Package for Social Sciences 27 (SPSS) which was used to analyze data and interpretate the statistical data collected by questionnaires. When analyzing the data collected using questionnaires, the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used. When analyzing data which was obtained from interviews the researcher used the NVIVO 14 software. The researcher used the frequency distribution which is highlighted in the graphs, table, chart or any other form or format to interpret the findings or results of the research. Furthermore, the researcher gave a detailed

explanation of the findings using the results from the tables, chart, graph or any other figure or format. In general, the researcher translated the analysis put forward by the different software's in the form of graph, chart and table into a story which then explains the general outcomes of the research findings. This came up with the answers needed for the research questions. For the presentation all the results gathered were done using tables, graphs and pie charts.

3.12 Ethical Considerations

In this research the researcher first asked for permission from the Zimbabwe Cricket Human Resources management and the Zimbabwe Paralympic Committee management. The researcher highlighted what the research is all about, the aim, purpose and the type of research which is going to be carried out. In addition, the researcher pointed out that whilst gathering the information from respondents the data gathered in this research was confidential and was only used for the research purposes and nothing else.

3.13 Chapter Summary

In this research this chapter touched on the research purpose, research philosophy, research approach, research design, time horizons, population and sampling procedures, data collection and analysis procedures and ethical considerations design, population sampling issues and the data collection instruments so as to prove the hypothesis. NVIVO analysis software was used to analyze the qualitative data whilst Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to analyze quantitative data. The information was then translated in the form of graphs, charts and tables for easy interpretation.

CHAPTER 4: RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

The purpose of the study is to develop a framework to guide the introduction of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe. Coaches, managers and athletes were interviewed using questionnaires and interviews in relation to the development of a framework to guide the introduction of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe. This chapter shows that the launch of wheelchair cricket is failing because of the in availability of modified facilities, no sourcing of adapted sports equipment and the lack of adjusted playing area.

4.2 Response Rate

Table 4.1: Response rate of questionnaires and semi structured interviews

Title	No of Surveys Sent	No of Respondents	Respondents Rate
Managers	8	5	62,5%
Athletes with disability	20	20	100%
Coaches	6	6	100%
Total	34	31	91.18%

Questionnaires and interviews were used to collect data on the framework which is currently being used to guide paralympic sport in Zimbabwe. Purposive sampling was used to select the population of the study. The study targeted the following population: Sport managers, athletes with disability and coaches. The target respondents included 8(23.5%) sports managers, 6(17.6%) coaches and 20(58.8%) athletes. Therefore, the total target population was 34 (100%) respondents. Interviews were carried out for the different sports managers; twenty questionnaires were distributed to athletes with disability and six questionnaires were also issued out to various coaches.

All the questionnaires issued to athletes who were physically challenged and coaches were successfully completed and only four interviews for the sports managers were successfully carried out.

4.3 Demographic Data

This study sought responses from both the female and male sport managers, athletes with disability and coaches in the cricket fraternity and including the paralympic sport in Zimbabwe.

Table 4.2: Gender Representation of Athletes, Coaches and Administrators

Athletes Gender

	Frequency	Percent
Male	11	55.0
Female	9	45.0

Coaches Gender

	Frequency	Percent
Male	5	83.3
Female	1	16.7

Administrators Gender

	Frequency	Percentage
Male	4	80
Female	1	20

The analysis in table 4.2 shows that out of the 20 athletes with disability who were given questionnaires and took part in this study, 55% were male whilst 45% were female. Also, out of all the coaches who participated in this research 83,3% were male whilst the other 16,7% were female. Furthermore, results gathered when the administrators took part in this study 80% were male and whilst the other 20% were female. After gathering this data, the outcome suggests that there is gender imbalance in the administration, technical departments and also the athletes of paralympic sport in Zimbabwe.

What type of physical disability?

Table 4.3: Athletes Disability

	Frequency	Percentage
Physical Disability	14	70
Hearing Impairment	4	20
Vision Impairment	2	10

The analysis in table 4.3 shows that out of the 20 athletes with disability who participated in this study, 70% was made up of athletes with physical disability, 20% were made up of athletes with hearing impairment and the other 10% was made up of athletes with vision impairment. These responses from the

athletes who participated suggested that there is a large number of athletes with physical disability who participate in paralympic sport in Zimbabwe.

4.4 Presentation and Analysis of Data Linked to the Research Objectives

Do you find easy access to practice venue and access to ablution facilities?

Table 4.4: Venue and Ablution Facilities Access

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	6	30
No	14	70

The results in table 4.4 highlights that majority of the athletes with disability who take part in Paralympic sport in Zimbabwe experience difficulties in accessing their practice venue and also the ablution facilities at these venues. This is shown by the 70% response which were aligned to the no response and the 30% response aligned to the yes response. This clearly shows that the athletes with disability do not have easy access to their practice venue and the ablution facilities found at these venues whilst taking part in Paralympic sport in Zimbabwe.

Do you frequently play cricket with your condition?

Table 4.5: Frequency of Playing Cricket

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	6	30
No	14	70

As shown by the results in table 4.5 it is observed that 30% of those athletes with disability who responded frequently play cricket whilst 70% of the respondents highlighted that they do not frequently play cricket. The reason for these results might have been caused by the fact that most of these athletes who are physically challenged are not given the opportunity to play cricket with their condition.

Do you have any challenges experienced whilst using the equipment during practice?

Table 4.6: Challenges Whilst Using Equipment During Practice

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	15	75
No	5	25

Basing on the results shown in table 4.6, athletes with disability who participated in this study highlighted that 75% experienced challenges whilst using equipment during practice whilst the remaining 25% did not experience challenges whilst using equipment during practice. Furthermore, it is evident that a lot of athletes with disability face challenges whilst using the equipment whilst participating in disability sports in Zimbabwe.

Do you frequently get discussions with your coach off the field where the coach asks for your suggestions in areas which seek improvement e.g., accessibility?

Table 4.7: Discussions of the field for suggestions

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	6	30
No	14	70

It is clearly shown by the results in table 4.7 that the respondents who took part in the study who highlighted that they do not frequently get discussions with their coaches off the field and where the coaches ask for suggestions in areas which seek improvement was 70% whilst those who highlighted that they frequently get discussions with their coaches off the field and where the coaches ask for suggestions in areas which seek improvement was 30%. These results suggest that there is not much consultation which is made whilst coming up with improvements

on playing areas for those athletes with disability in Paralympic sport in Zimbabwe.

Are you frequently given access to a psychologist, physiotherapist and a doctor?

Table 4.8: Access to A Psychologist, Physiotherapist and A Doctor

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	6	30
No	14	70

The highest percentage of respondents as shown by the results showed that 70% of the athletes who are physically challenged do not frequently get access to psychologists, physiotherapist and doctors. As indicated by the results which are shown in table 4.8 most of the respondents highlighted that they do not have access to the services of a psychologist, physiotherapist and doctors whilst they take part in Paralympic sport in Zimbabwe.

Are you given enough time during practice and matches?

Table 4.9: Enough Time During Practice and Matches

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	6	30
No	14	70

The results of the study in table 4.9 shows that athletes with disability responses when responding to the question, if they are given enough time during practice and matches, a percentage of the athletes with disability who highlighted no is 70% whilst 30% percent of the respondents highlighted yes.

These results suggest that athletes with disability are not given enough time during practice and matches whilst taking part in Paralympic sport in Zimbabwe.

Do you get any challenges which might be caused by the length of the pitch you use and the boundary size?

Table 4.10: Challenges Caused

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	16	80.0
No	4	20.0

Basing on the results shown in table 4.10, the athletes with disability who experience challenges which might be caused by the length of pitch and boundary size are 80%. Furthermore, the respondents who do not experience challenges which might be caused by the length of pitch and boundary size are 20%.

Do you face challenges when bowling due to the ball and approaching the crease?

Table 4.11: Challenges When Bowling

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	13	65
No	7	35

From the results highlighted in table 4.11, it is shown that 65% of the disabled athletes who play cricket face challenges when bowling due to the type of the ball or when approaching the crease whilst the remaining proportion of 35% of the athletes highlighted that they do not face any challenges. It is evident with these results that a lot of athletes with disability face challenges when bowling due to the ball and approaching the crease to bowl.

Do you receive support from family/friends/coach/others surrounding your training on the handling of equipment used?

Table 4.12: *Support from Family/Friends/Coaches on Handling Equipment*

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	14	70
No	6	30

Basing on the results of the study in table 4.12, most respondents indicated that they do not get support from family/friends/coaches/others surrounding their training on the handling of equipment the athletes will be using (70%). The remaining (30%) respondents were of the view that they do not get support from family/friends/coaches/others surrounding their training on the handling of equipment the athletes will be using. These results suggest that the athlete's with disability experience challenges whilst using the equipment which is available which will result in them seeking assistance to use the equipment.

Are you progressing in disability sport and improving as you expected?

Table 4.13: *Progress and Improvement in Disability Sport*

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	6	30
No	14	70

The results of the study in table 4.13 show that 30% of the athletes with disability responded with a yes when asked if they are progressing in disability sport and improving as expected. The other 70% athletes with disability responded with a no on the question, are you progressing in disability sport and improving as expected. These results suggest that the most athletes who are physically challenged are not progressing in disability sport and improving as expected, and this may be due to

poor coaching or even not being given the opportunity to have adequate practice time and exposure.

Are you frequently involved in most decisions about disability sport development?

Table 4.14: Involvement in Decisions About Disability Sport Development

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	3	15
No	17	85

Basing on the results shown in Table 4.14, it is shown by the responses that 15% of the athletes with disability are frequently involved in most decisions about disability sport development whilst 85% of the athletes highlighted that they are not frequently involved in most decisions about disability sport development.

These results show that most of the decisions made for disability sport development are made on behalf of the athletes with disability without consulting them so as to make the put forward their views and suggestions. This suggests that these decisions are made by people with ability on behalf of athletes with disability.

Have you ever coached a cricket team with players who are physically challenged?

Table 4.15: Coached A Cricket Team with players who are physically challenged?

	Frequency	Percentage
No	6	100

As highlighted by the results shown in Table 4.15, 100% of the coaches who responded showed that they have never coached a cricket team made up of athletes who are physically challenged.

These results suggest that cricket teams which are made up of athletes who are physically challenged are none existent.

Do you accommodate players with disability in your coaching programs?

Table 4.16: Accommodate Players with Disability

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	1	16.7
No	5	83.3

The results in Table 4.16 show that 16,7% of the respondents were responded with a yes whilst 83,3% of the respondents responded with a no when asked if they accommodate players with disability in their coaching program. These results clearly show that coaches do not accommodate players who physically challenged in their coaching programs.

Have you ever recommended any modifications on entry points into the cricket facility/ablution facilities to cater for disabled?

Table 4.17: Modification Recommendations

	Frequency	Percentage
No	6	100

To find out if the athletes with disability have ever recommended any modifications on entry points into the cricket facility/ablution facilities to cater for

the disabled respondents were of the view that yes, they did recommend was (0%) whilst no was (100%)

The study found out that the athletes with disability are not given the opportunity to recommend any modifications on entry points into the cricket facility/ablution facilities to cater for the disabled.

As a coach do you have any qualifications to be able to deal with athletes with disability?

Table 4.18: Qualifications

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	1	16.7
No	5	83.3

To find out how many coaches in Zimbabwe have a coaching qualification for paralympic sport coaching, the respondents who have qualifications for coaching paralympic cricket (16,7%). The other proportion of coaches who did not have the qualifications for coaching paralympic cricket (83,3%). These results suggest that the majority of the coaches are not qualified coaches who are not able to deal with athletes who are physically challenged.

During free time do you educate yourself about people who play cricket with physical disability through watching their matches online

Table 4.19: Free time to educate

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	3	50
No	3	50

It is evident from the results in table 4.19 that there is a balance on the responses as the respondents highlighted when asked the question during free time do you educate yourself about people who play cricket with physical disability through watching their matches online, 50% were for the answer yes whilst the other 50% were for the answer no. These results show that some of the coaches put an effort in trying to educate themselves about athletes who are physically challenged who take part in the game of cricket through watching matches online.

These are the managers interview responses to all the questions asked by the researcher.

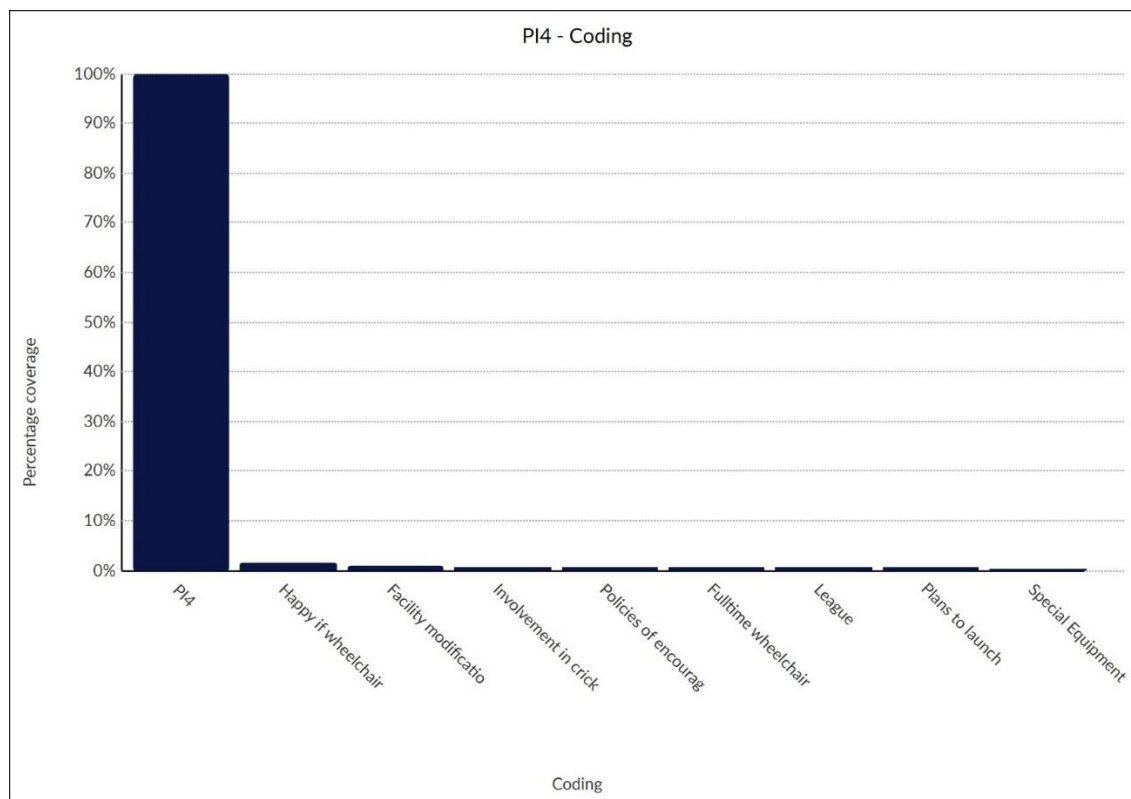


Figure 4.1: *Managers interview responses*

It was highlighted by most interviewees that athletes with disability would be very much excited if wheelchair cricket was to be launched in Zimbabwe's provincial cricket franchisees.

A high number of respondents showed that they are no modifications on the playing facilities for cricket in Zimbabwe to cater for athletes with disability. These modifications include easy access for athletes who are physically challenged to ablution facilities, grandstands, the field of play for matches and practice.

It is also evident from the results in Figure 4.20, that most of the sports managers have never been involved in Paralympic sport in Zimbabwe. This further suggests that the managers have never been exposed to the needs of athletes who are physically challenged whilst they take part in sport.

As shown in Figure 4.20, there are no policies which are laid down to encourage the existence of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe. The non-existence of these policies makes it hard for the introduction of wheelchair cricket.

On another note, the managers pointed out that they are no players contracts for wheelchair cricket players, which means the inexistence of full-time wheelchair cricket players in all the provincial cricket franchises. This clearly suggests that wheelchair cricket does not exist in Zimbabwe, since it can be noted that players contracts are there for able bodied players and get a monthly salary from Zimbabwe Cricket.

In addition, the respondents were of the view that there is no cricket league for wheelchair cricket currently running in Zimbabwe.

Most of the respondents highlighted that there is no sourcing of special equipment (adapted sports equipment) being done by the management which can be used for wheelchair cricket by the athletes with disability in Zimbabwe. This sourcing of equipment can be done through the Zimbabwe Paralympic committee, government ministries and even the international cricket council.

On another note, other respondents pointed out the in existence of plans to launch wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe. This just highlights that wheelchair cricket is not going to be launched in the near future.

4.5 Chapter Summary

Under this the following were touched on, that is the response rate, demographic data, interviews, presentation and analysis of the data linked to the research objectives which was collected. In this chapter the researcher used the data gathered and the interview responses to analyze the data at hand using the results obtained. After the analysis of the data collected it is evident that a framework is necessary for the introduction of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe. Aided equipment is needed and the modification of the playing area and the entrances to suit people with disability.

CHAPTER 5: DISCUSSION

5.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the findings of this study whilst presenting a summary of the research findings and the new insights emerging from the study and the limitations of the study.

5.2 Discussion

In this research the questionnaire respondents and the interviews all supported that there were problems faced by athletes with disability whilst performing sport in Zimbabwe. About 70% of the questionnaire's respondents stressed that they do not find easy access to practice venue and access to the ablution facilities. This was also supported by the interviewees whose response was high with about 99% in support that there were no policies that encourage wheelchair cricket existence in their franchisees.

5.2.1 Equipment, Facilities and Accessibility

The respondents and those interviewed were of the same view that there is limited accessibility to facilities by those athletes with disability. In addition, the respondents and interviewees highlighted that they face challenges with the size of the boundary, they also faced challenges whilst bowling in terms of length of pitch whilst accessing or approaching the crease. Fitri et al. (2022), suggests that equipment that is not comfortable and does not fit the athlete's size is one of the things that athletes in both Indonesia and Malaysia have expressed dissatisfaction with. In addition, Hambrick et al (2015), noted that the availability of adequate equipment has a significant influence on an athlete's ability to compete. In support

of this Burkett (2010), points out that according to the findings of previous research, technology and equipment may make a significant contribution to Paralympic sports. On another point, the issue of ablution facilities, where the respondents and interviewees were in support that athletes with disability experienced failure to access these and the need for modifications for these facilities which are used for paralympic sport. In the United States, depending on the region, persons with disabilities continue to experience various barriers to accessing sports facilities, and according to a survey of 50 sports facilities for people with disabilities in Oregon, major barriers included the entrance, customer service and shower facilities (Riley et al., 2008). According to Rimmer et al. (2017), facilities such as sports halls and fields, fitness centers, community parks and playgrounds used for sports are often not accessible (i.e., uneven terrain, grass or gravel surfaces) , thus limiting the participation opportunities of persons with disabilities. The right to participate in sport is recognized in international conventions. This includes the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was adopted in 2006. Article 30.5 of the Convention, which deals with participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport, states that persons with disabilities should be given opportunities to participate in both mainstream and disability-specific activities as well as access to related services and venues. This includes ensuring that persons with disabilities have access to sports venues (The United Nations. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2022).

In the area of equipment respondents and interviewees concurred with each other that athlete with disability frequently receive support from family, friends, coaches and others who are close on the issue of handling equipment since they will be having challenges. It would be ideal for example the introduction of a lighter

cricket ball with a less hard surface for wheelchair cricket or for those athletes with disability. Khumalo et al. (2013), suggests that physical activity should be carried out in accordance with the specific considerations of the disability, and may include changes in;

- Equipment the use of different materials and different sized balls
- Environment e.g., lowering the height of the net: decreasing the size of the court
- Task making activities easier, altering the goal, e.g., playing volleyball while seated or in wheelchair
- Rules e.g., allowing tennis ball to bounce twice before it is returned (extending the time available for hitting the ball)
- Instruction: adjusting to cognitive abilities e.g., keeping it short and simple, giving one instruction at a time, moving in a straight line rather than a circle.

These activities can be organized by activity and health conditions.

Interview respondents also highlighted that there is no sourcing of any special equipment which is modified for wheelchair cricket (aided sports equipment). This makes it hard for athletes who are physically challenged to get access to the aided equipment. McNamee et al. (2021) pointed out that, sport in the Paralympic movement have a responsibility to support the development of universally available high standard sports equipment, the technology and equipment used in paralympic sport therefore be available to all, regardless of the athlete's nationality, level of resources or individual background circumstances.

5.2.2 Coaching

Under coaching the issue of coaches not being qualified to coach athletes who are physically challenged was a common issue on the responses. Coaches are not qualified at all to coach paralympic sport. Also, most of the respondents and interviewees were in agreement that most of the coaches do not even put effort to go an extra mile by educating themselves in wheelchair cricket even by watching matches online. Dehghansai et al. (2021) noted that, it is important to consider that there may be challenges that are unique to paralympic sport contexts, for example, there are similarities between able bodied and paralympic sport coaching (that is value of using autonomy -supportive strategies), but there are also aspects when coaching elite athletes with disabilities that require a more adaptive approach(that is tailoring training to athletes unique abilities/dealing with social stigmas in public settings).

It is of importance that coaches for athletes who are physically challenged have a coaching and playing background. It was also pointed out by the respondents and interviewees that coaches are not exposed to coaching cricket to athletes who are physically challenged.

5.2.3 Gender

Gender imbalance is an area which was noted after the respondents and interviewees responses highlighted that most of them were male respondents. The responses showed that a large number of athletes with disability, coaches and administrators in sport were males. This proves that there is need for more education in the area of sport participation in the Zimbabwean community, so as to increase participation in the female gender. For instance, women accounted for 42% of all athlete delegates at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Summer Games and

comprised a mere 24% of all competitors at the recent Beijing 2022 Paralympic Winter Games. Issues regarding gender imbalance are rife within the Paralympic Movement more broadly, where women account for only 20% of National Paralympic Committee (NPC) presidential roles and have limited representation on many key committees and boards (Houghton et al., 2022). United Nations (2023) points out that, it has also been reported that over 93% of women with disabilities are not involved in sport. Nikolaus et al. (2022) also highlighted that to address the imbalance, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) established a 30% goal for women within its leadership structures in 2003 and increased this to 50% at the 2017 General Assembly.

5.2.4 Medical Access

Since Paralympic sport is associated with athletes with disability, most of the athletes will need regular checks from medical personnel since they have varying health conditions. These athletes are also exposed to higher risks of injury whilst taking part in Paralympic sport. Basing on the respondents and interviewees, there was a big seconding that athletes with disability are not given access to the services of psychologists, physiotherapists and even doctors whilst taking part in Paralympic sport. According to Dehghansai et al. (2021), there is need to focus on athletes 'health and the effects of athletes spending more time preparing for competition, training, and long travels at the expense of other areas of their lives.

5.2.5 Time and Exposure

The issue of time was an area which was cited as one of the problems encountered by athletes who are physically challenged in them taking part and progressing in Paralympic sport. Most of the respondents and interviewees pointed out that they are not progressing in disability sport and improving as they expected. This could

be so, because of the time and the type of training. The questionnaire respondents and interviewees were in agreement that they are not satisfied with the training programs which were given to them and further concurred that they are not given enough time during practice and matches whilst they take part in Paralympic sport in Zimbabwe.

5.2.6 Decisions and Management

Questionnaire respondents and interviewees in this research concurred that there are no plans and policies which have been laid down or put across for the launch of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe. Khumalo et al. (2013) points out that, a European charter was adopted which specifically called on national governing bodies of education, sport and recreation to strengthen the rules and regulations allowing individuals with disabilities to access and participate in these activities, as well as on governments and local public authorities to create legal provisions for individuals with disabilities.

Also, participants responses showed that people with disability would be very happy if wheelchair cricket is to be launched in their different cricket franchises in Zimbabwe. This will result in a wider range for the athletes with disability to choose from, to be able to take part in Paralympic sport in Zimbabwe.

In addition, a large number of the respondents and interviewees highlighted that there is no inclusion in making decisions about disability sport development in Zimbabwe. It can be seen that both coaches and management do not consult or seek advice from athletes with disability and in most cases from the Zimbabwe Paralympic committee whilst developing or making decisions in Paralympic sport in Zimbabwe.

5.2.7 Leagues and Employment

Questionnaire respondents and interviewees were in agreement that there is no league which is running currently in Zimbabwe for wheelchair cricket. There is need to work with Zimbabwe Paralympic Committee to come up with a permanent and continuous league or leagues for wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe where athletes with disability take part in and enjoy.

In addition, most of the respondents and interviewees showed that in the different franchises for cricket in Zimbabwe there are no permanent or fulltime wheelchair cricket players who get a monthly salary as fulltime wheelchair cricket players, just like what happens to those athletes who do not have disability who earn a living just by playing cricket and getting monthly salaries.

5.3 Limitations of The Study

Questionnaires were time consuming since the researcher sent to the respondents. Also, these made sampling difficult. People were reluctant to respond and send back. The researcher had to make several follow ups through emails and calls were made to follow up on the results and encouragement to complete all the questions.

Some of the interviewees found it hard to keep their answers focused to the questions asked, so the interviewer frequently intervened and reminded the interviewees the main question focus. Also, on interviews there was reluctance to be interviewed by giving appointments which they knew they would not be there. Some of them were out of the country on business and were the only people who were allowed to respond to interviews. For the interviews done to managers the response rate was sixty-two-point five percent. This response rate was good.

Fincham 2008, suggests that most researchers should aim for a response rate of sixty percent, but for survey research that is meant to represent all pharmacy schools and colleges, a response rate of at least eighty percent is anticipated.

Only a limited views of the coaches was heard due to time. At least the researcher managed to get responses from each cricket franchise in Zimbabwe whilst also getting responses from two coaches who are in the Zimbabwe cricket national structures. This made the researcher able to collect reliable and accurate results.

5.4 Chapter Summary

The study findings were covered in this chapter. The research will be concluded and recommendations will be done in the next following chapter.

CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Introduction

The chapter primary focus is on the research's conclusions and suggestions. Chapter 1 outlines the research topics that will be addressed in the conclusions. Additionally, this chapter will offer suggestions for additional research and practical application.

6.2 Conclusions

The conclusions of the study were that there is no framework in place for the introduction of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe. Because of this wheelchair cricket ceases to exist in Paralympic sport in Zimbabwe. Despite these findings, there were some athletes with disability, coaches and managers who felt that despite not having a framework of the introduction of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe, efforts were being made by Zimbabwe Cricket and Zimbabwe Paralympic Committee to ensure that athletes with disability enjoyed Paralympic sport in Zimbabwe.

In addition, the research resulted in recommending a framework for the introduction of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe. The development of the framework could not be achieved by Zimbabwe Cricket alone, but by inclusion of all major stakeholders which include government of Zimbabwe Ministries, Zimbabwe Paralympic Committee, athletes with disability, coaches and others involved in the sporting industry and Paralympic sport in Zimbabwe. This will go a long way in shaping change in Zimbabwe National Paralympic Sport.

6.2.1 Current status of Zimbabwe Cricket for wheelchair cricket.

- Most of the managers have never been involved in any cricket programs with athletes who are physically challenged.
- No plans to launch wheelchair cricket
- The non-existence of policies that encourage wheelchair cricket existence.
- No specifically modified facilities or special facilities which are just made up specifically for wheelchair cricket.
- No wheelchair cricket leagues running in all the Zimbabwe cricket franchises
- No sourcing of adapted equipment which is modified and can be used by athletes with disability.
- Coaches have never coached a cricket team made of players who are physically challenged.
- Coaches do not educate themselves during their free time about people who play cricket with disability through watching their matches online
- In all the provincial cricket franchises they are no wheelchair cricket players who have a fulltime players contract and get a monthly salary just like what happens with the able-bodied cricket players.

6.2.2 Factors working against the introduction of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe

- The cricket coaches are not qualified to handle and coach disabled athletes.
- The athletes with disability also face a lot of challenges whilst using sports equipment during practice

- Athletes with disability are not given access to medical personnel which include doctors, psychologists and physiotherapists whilst taking part in sport.
- The athletes with disability also pointed out that they are not given enough time during their practice sessions and also during matches
- Problems which are caused by the length of the pitch, boundary size and accessibility to the crease or pitch.

6.2.3 Strategic measures that can be put in place to guide the introduction of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe

- Coming up with policies and plans that encourage wheelchair cricket existence.
- Modifying and coming up with facilities which accommodate those on wheelchairs to play and get access to playing facilities
- Introducing wheelchair cricket leagues in all cricket franchises and giving playing contracts to players with disability
- Sourcing adapted equipment which is modified to be used by the athletes who are physically challenged
- Training coaches to be able to deal with athletes who are physically challenged
- Creating more time for practice and more matches
- Adjusting measurements of the pitch, ball and accessibility to the crease by the athletes with disability

6.3 Recommendations

The following suggestions were made after carrying out this research in order to provide a framework for the introduction of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe.

6.3.1 Equipment, Facilities and Accessibility

- Adapted sports equipment to be sourced for physically challenged athletes
- Adjusting measurements of pitches for them to be accessible to physical challenged athletes
- Construction of special facilities which are custom designed and are adapted to athletes with disability so that they can get easy access to the facility

6.3.2 Coaching

- Conducting coaching courses and workshops to train the coaches to be able to handle and coach physically challenged athletes
- Encourage coaches to upgrade themselves during their free time on wheelchair cricket online through watching matches and reading relevant literature
- Continue to hold regular refresher and awareness courses for those involved in paralympic sport
- Assign and expose coaches to teams with physically challenged athletes

6.3.3 Gender

- Encourage gender balance in management by encouraging ladies to take part in sports administration
- Expose lady athletes with disability to take up a positive role and participate more in sport

- Create opportunities for ladies to be involved in sport

6.3.4 Medical Access

- Assigning medical personnel (doctors, psychologists and physiotherapists) to wheelchair cricket practice sessions and matches
- Give athletes with disability more access to medical personnel regularly

6.3.5 Time and Exposure

- More time allocated for practice and matches

6.3.6 Decisions and Management

- Inclusion of athletes with disability whilst making decisions for sport development, modification and access to facilities
- Consulting and also including the Zimbabwe Paralympic Committee, Government of Zimbabwe Ministries, other stakeholders involved in the sporting industry and Paralympic sport in Zimbabwe
- Expose managers to Paralympic sport and hold frequent workshops to educate them
- Coming up with policies and plans that promote the existence of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe

6.3.7 Leagues and Employment

- Start a league for wheelchair cricket in all the provincial cricket franchises
- Introduce provincial teams for wheelchair cricket and then introduce players contracts for the wheelchair cricket players, this will create employment for the disabled athletes

6.3.8 Framework for the introduction of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe.

Table 6.1 Framework for The Introduction of Wheelchair Cricket in Zimbabwe

Heading	Requirement
Equipment, Facilities and Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Acquisition of adaptive equipment e.g., incrediball (safety cricket ball) ➤ Reducing the length of the pitch and increasing the width and length of the crease. ➤ Reducing the boundary length for scoring runs. ➤ Modification of facilities to be easily accessible i.e., putting ramps, safety rails, increasing the width of doors, widening corridors on entry points into the playing area, changing rooms, pavilions, toilets, showers, spectator area, umpire's rooms, media centers and score box.
Rules and Umpiring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Amending the cricket rules e.g., the wheelchair will form part of the player, the ball is said to be dead when it lodges in the wheelchair during play and the ball is not expected to bounce before it reaches the batsman on the wheelchair.
Coaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Coaching courses and regular refresher workshops to be carried out so as to have qualified coaching personnel for wheelchair cricket. ➤ Coaches to be taught to give simplified instructions which are straight and precise by demonstrating and the use of boards to clearly elaborate the concept/skill being coached. ➤ Training sessions should be tailor made to suite athletes they are intended for i.e., wheelchair cricket players
Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Launching grassroots wheelchair cricket in schools for the disabled e.g., Jairos Jiri and Danhiko so as to capture the interest of both sexes ➤ Appoint retired athletes with disability into administrative, officiating and coaching posts so as to have gender balance in paralympic sport
Medical Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Presence of medical personnel during matches e.g., physiotherapists, psychologists and doctors ➤ Availability of medical equipment and ambulances which are well equipped during matches ➤ Medical personnel should be specialists to deal with athletes with disability
Time and Exposure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Creating more practice sessions for athletes with disability ➤ Launching wheelchair cricket in all the Zimbabwe Cricket franchisees, thus resulting in more accessibility to athletes with disability across Zimbabwe ➤ Customized training programs which suit the athletes with disability and in the end creating more exposure and time the athletes taking part in wheelchair cricket
Decisions and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Including athletes with disability in making decisions that affect their sport ➤ Roping in the Zimbabwe Paralympic Committee and also all government ministries when setting out policies and plans for wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe ➤ Laying down policies that promote the existence of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe e.g., sourcing and donating aided equipment to schools for the disabled like Jairos Jiri, tertiary institutions which have disability resource centers and then assisting them with coaching staff and regular tournaments
Leagues and Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Setting up wheelchair cricket leagues in all Zimbabwe Cricket franchisees in Zimbabwe for both youth and adults (to include both male and female) ➤ Having contracted athletes with disability in every Zimbabwe Cricket Franchisees who will then be selected into the Zimbabwe national wheelchair cricket team ➤ Contracted wheelchair cricket players to earn a salary, this will become a form of employment

6.3.9 Implications for practice

The findings of this study will have an impact on the introduction of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe, since there is no framework for the introduction of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe.

The findings will result in:

- Adapted sport equipment being used by athletes with disability
- Special custom-made facilities being constructed for wheelchair cricket
- Better and educated coaches who are qualified to coach athletes with disability
- Promote gender balance in sport administration, coaching and playing in Paralympic sport
- Improved accessibility for athletes with disability to medical personnel
- Launch of wheelchair cricket league
- Employment opportunities for wheelchair cricket athletes

6.3.10 Implications for theory

The findings of the study have added to the body of knowledge in the area of Paralympic sport especially in the area of wheelchair cricket. This study has also highlighted on how a framework of wheelchair cricket was developed and how a framework to introduce any Paralympic sport can be done.

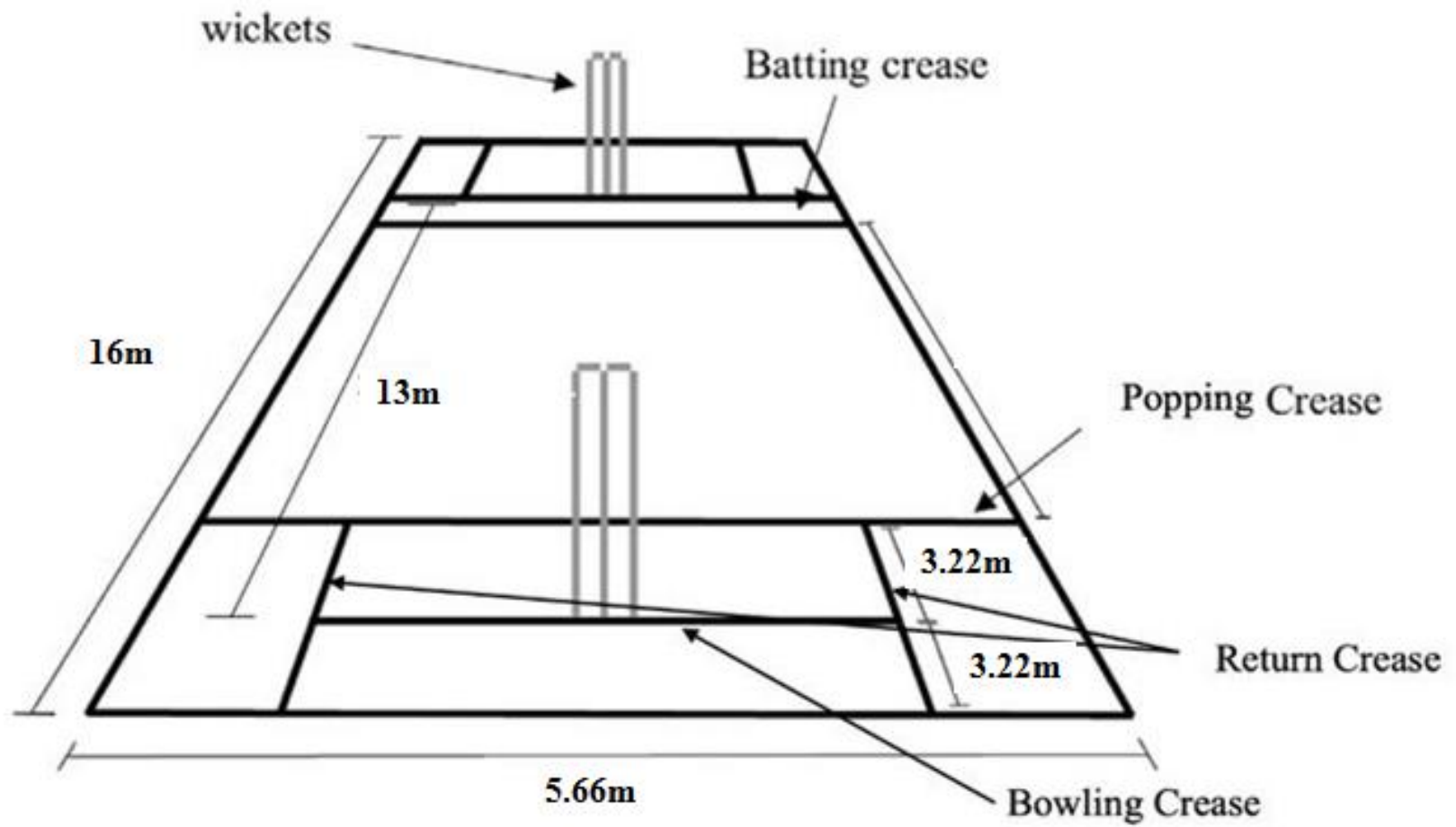


Figure 6.1: Measurements of the wheel chair cricket area

6.3.11 Implications for further study

This research has further highlighted more areas which will need further studies in the area of Paralympic sport in Zimbabwe.

The areas which are listed below were suggested for further research:

- It is recommended that this study be done in other different sporting organisations and sporting disciplines so as to develop frameworks for the launch of Paralympic sport in Zimbabwe
- The study mainly focused on the development of a framework of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe. It is also recommended that a study be done to also take a look at the implementation of various frameworks in paralympic sport in Zimbabwe
- The study also put emphasis on the development of a framework for the introduction of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe. It therefore suggests that an investigation be done on the different frameworks being used for the introduction for different Paralympic sports in Zimbabwe

6.4 Chapter Summary

Under this chapter the summary of conclusions and recommendations suggested were brought forward. Also, the recommendations which were made were for policy and practice. To add on the researcher highlighted the implications for further study.

THE END MATTER

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APPENDIX 1: RESEARCH LETTER

BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION



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DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS SCIENCE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

RE: POSTGRADUATE DISSERTATION STUDY ACCESS REQUEST.

This is to certify that Osborn Nayoto is a bonafide Master of Science in Sports Science student in the Department of Sports Science at the Bindura University of Science Education. He is conducting an action research study entitled: 'Developing a framework to guide the introduction of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe'.

We are kindly requesting your organization to partner with her/him in the study by participating in the data collection and intervention strategy development process. Participation in this research is completely voluntary and you may choose to withdraw from the research at any time. The information from your organization will only be used for academic purposes and be kept private and confidential. Codes will be used to identify participant organizations. This is meant to ensure that information would not be linked to the providers. Password-protected computers will be used to store any identifiable information that may be obtained from your organization. Data will also be analyzed at the group level, to ensure anonymity. You can also sign confidentiality agreements with the researcher.

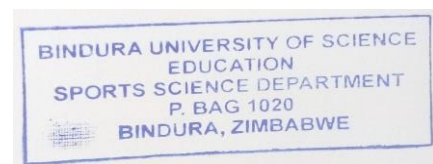
A copy of the finished work will be provided to your organization after the study. The results of the study are expected to transform practice and your support will be pivotal to its success.

If you have any queries regarding this project, please phone me on 0772916712, or lysiastapiwacharumbira1968@gmail.com or lcharumbira@buse.ac.zw

We would like to thank you in advance for your support.

Yours Sincerely

Lysias Tapiwanashe Charumbira (Dr.)
Chairperson



APPENDIX 2: RESEARCH CONSENT FORM



RESEARCH CONSENT FORM

My name is Osborn Nayoto. I am a postgraduate student in the Faculty of Science and Engineering under the department of Sport Science and at Bindura University. As part of my postgraduate thesis, I am kindly inviting you to participate in my research. The purpose of this research is developing a framework to guide the introduction of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe. The study will benefit, scientifically with the development of a framework which will be used to guide in the introduction of wheelchair cricket in Zimbabwe. Your participation in this research study is completely voluntary. If you feel you are not comfortable to take part in this study, you can withdraw from the study at any moment and this will not result in any penalty. It is also allowed for you to skip a question in the event that you do not feel comfortable to answer. This session should take approximately 25 minutes. There shall be no payment for participating in this study. In addition, all answers will be kept confidential, they will be kept anonymous and no one will be identifiable in the research.

I have read this consent form and I do agree to take part in this research study. I understand my participation is voluntary and that my name will not be associated with my responses by signing below.

Participants Signature

Date.....



APPENDIX 3: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR COACHES

1. How old are you?

.....

2. What age group do you coach?

.....

3. What is your Gender?

M..... F.....

4. Which provincial franchise are you based in for your coaching programs?

TUSKERS..... RHINOS..... EAGLES..... MOUNTAINEERS.....

5. Do you consider a player's physical capabilities when selecting players?

YES.... NO....

6. Do you look at player's physical ability when conducting practice sessions players?

YES.... NO....

7. Do you group players with their physical ability when conducting practice sessions?

YES.... NO....

8. Have you ever coached a cricket team with players with disability?

YES.... NO....

9. Do you have any plans of forming a team made up of players with walking disability?

YES.... NO....

10. Do you accommodate players with disability in your coaching programs?

YES.... NO....

11. Do you encourage people with disability to come for group sessions on your free slots?

YES.... NO....

12. Have you ever recommended any modifications on entry points into the cricket facility or ablution facilities to cater for the disabled?

YES.... NO....

13. As a coach do have a qualification to be able to deal with the disabled?

YES.... NO....

14. On your free time do you sometimes educate yourself about people who play cricket with physical disability through watching their matches online?

YES.... NO....

15. As a coach do you see yourself coaching a cricket team made up of people with disability?

YES.... NO....

16. Have you ever coached a team with people with disability?

YES.....NO.....

Thank you for taking part in my research.

APPENDIX 4: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PLAYERS



QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PLAYERS

1. What is your age?

.....

2. What is your gender?

M.... F....

3. What is your disability?

.....

4. Do you frequently play cricket with your condition?

Yes.... No....

5. Do you find easy access to your practice venue and access to the ablution facilities?

Yes.... No....

6. Do you any challenges experienced whilst using the equipment during practice?

Yes.... No....

7. Do you frequently get discussions with your coach of the field where the coach asks for your suggestions in areas which seek improvement for example accessibility?

Yes.... No....

8. Are you frequently given access to a psychologist, physiotherapist and a doctor?

Yes.... No....

9. Are you given enough time during practice and matches?

Yes.... No....

10. Do you get any challenges which might be caused by the length of the pitch you use and the boundary size?

Yes.... No....

11. Do you face any challenges when bowling due to the ball and approaching the crease?

Yes.... No.....

12. Do you receive support from family/friends/coach/others surrounding your training on the handling of equipment used?

Yes.... No....

13. Are you progressing in disability sport and improving as you expected?

Yes.... No....

14. Are you frequently involved in most decisions about disability sport development?

Yes.... No....

15. Are you satisfied with the disability training program given to you at your franchise?

Yes.... No.....

16. Name of your franchise.

TUSKERS..... RHINOS.... EAGLES.... MOUNTAINEERS.....

Thank you for taking part in my research.



APPENDIX 5: INTERVIEW QUESTIONS FOR MANAGERS

Question 1-Introduce yourself.

Question 2-How long have you been at the administration post at your current institution.

Question 3- Do you have any coaching and playing background?

Question 4-Have you ever been involved in cricket with disability programs?

Question 5-Are there any plans to launch wheelchair cricket at your franchise? (Briefly explain how you do it)

Question 6-Do you think people with disability especially those on wheelchairs will be happy if wheelchair cricket is launched at your franchise?

Question 7-Do you have in place any policies that encourage wheel chair cricket existence at your institution?

Question 8-Do you have any modifications of the facility or a special facility for those on wheelchairs to have easy access when playing cricket? (If any, can you outline these modifications)

Question 9-How do you fund your disabled cricket teams if any?

Question 10-Do you have a league running for wheelchair cricket?

Question 11-Do you source any special equipment which is modified for wheelchair cricket?

Question 12-What is Zimbabwe Crickets contribution towards the promotion of wheelchair cricket?

Question 13- Can you highlight the number of disabled athletes who play for the national team, if any?

Question 14- Has Zimbabwe cricket ever sent a national wheelchair cricket team for international tournaments?

Question 15- Do you put any special emphasis on wheelchair cricket at your Institution?

Question 16-Do you have any wheelchair cricket players who are fulltime players and are paid every month by your institution?

Thank you for taking part in my research.